What’s Your Issue?
Formulating a Question
Before You Begin Researching

1. What’s an Argument?
An argument has three parts: (1) the issue, (2) the conclusion, and (3) the reasons.

2. Topic & Issues
A topic is an idea or subject. An issue is what you are arguing. An issue must contain at least two topics.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Subject/Topic</th>
<th>The Issue/Question</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vaccines</td>
<td>Do vaccines cause autism?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hockey</td>
<td>Should fighting be allowed in NHL hockey?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Light Rail</td>
<td>What are the effects of light rail on traffic?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Therapists</td>
<td>Are therapists at high-risk for lawsuits?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. What’s Your Issue?
Write your issue in the form of a question below. Circle the nouns and identify your two primary research topics.

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

If you are having difficulty answering the question above, try this:

I am studying: ____________________________________________________________
to investigate: ____________________________________________________________
in order to understand: _______________________________________________________

Turn this paper over
4. Searching

Do vaccines cause autism?

- Use a separate search box for each topic
- Search for your topics in the title of the article by pulling the dropdown search to **TI Title**

4. Searching a Topic with Two or More Words

If a research topic is two or more words, try searching it in quotes. Examples:

“colony collapse disorder”
“substance abuse”
“of mice and men”
“edgar allan poe”
“north korea”

5. Synonyms

What are some other words the author of the source that you want to find might use to describe it. Example: You are trying to find articles on old people and driving accidents. Might the author use the words: [aged] or [senior citizens] or [elderly] or [geriatric] or [traffic accidents] or [crashes]. What are some other words the author might use to describe your topics?